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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9904
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS NICOSIA 2969

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CY, UNESCO
SUBJ: MESSAGE TO UNESCO DIRGEN: NEED FOR UNESCO MISSION TO CYPRUS

1. EMBASSY NICOSIA CONSIDERS THAT UNESCO SHOULD BE PLAYING A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLE THAN SO FAR EVIDENT IN PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN EQUIVOCAL SITUATION CAUSED BY TURKISH MILITARY OCCUPATION. SPECIFICALLY, WE THINK UNESCO SHOULD BY THIS TIME HAVE HAD IN CYPRUS A MISSION TO INVENTORY SITES AND OBJECTS IN TURKISH AREA AND COME TO AGREED ARRANGEMENT WITH TURKISH AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR PROPER PROTECTION. WE HOPE USG WILL URGE THIS ON UNESCO IF IT IS NOT ALREADY IN TRAIN.

2. IN THIS REGARD, OUR ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED IN TRANS-MITTING FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM CYPRIOT DIRECTOR OF ANTIQUITIES, DR. VASSOS KARAGEORGHIS, TO UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHEU:

"I WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO YOU MOST URGENTLY TO EXERCISE YOUR PERSONAL INTERFERENCE TO SAVE THE MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES OF CYPRUS NOW IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY BY COMING HERE YOURSELF IF POSSIBLE. THE MAJORITY OF OUR MONUMENTS AND FINE COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES RUN THE RISK OF LOOTING AND DESTRUCTION. THE FIRST REPORTS WHICH WE HAVE JUSTIFY THIS FEAR."

3. IF NO OBJECTION PERCEIVED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THIS BEING PASSED IN PARIS. CRAWFORD
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Disposition Event:
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